# MINUTES

OF THE

# MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE

OF

## The Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

HELD IN BRANDON, MISS.,

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 1857.

BISHOP JOHN EARLY, PRESIDING.

VICKSBURG:
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# PREFACE.

To the Members of the Mississippi Conference:

*Dear Brethren,*—Your Committee on the Publication of the Minutes, present the following as the result of their labors. We have labored under the disadvantage of being too far apart for consultation, hence the Chairman was compelled amidst the pressing engagements of a large and responsible station, to do the work alone, chiefly at night, in the short space of three or four nights. Believing this the beginning of a work of vast importance to the Chruch, we commit it to your indulgence, hoping it will meet your favor.

W. P. BARTON, Chairman.

H. J. HARRIS.

1857

# Proceedings of the Conference.

The Mississippi Conference held its last Session in Brandon, opening on the morning of the 18th day of Nov. 1857.

Bishop Early was present, presiding; religious services by Dr. Drake.

The roll was then called, when the following Brethren answered to their names and took their seats.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. W. Adams, | W. P. Barton, | T. W. Brown, |
| J. I. E. Byrd, | L. Campbell, | J. G. Carlisle, |
| J. J. Clark, | G. H. Clinton, | W. M. Curtis, |
| A. Day, | J. T. Dew, | W. P. Dickerson, |
| D. W. Dillahay, | B. M. Drake, | L. Ercanbrack, |
| J. English, | F. M. Featherstun, | E. A. Flowers, |
| C. R. Godfrey, | J. Y. Griffing, | J. B. Higginbotham, |
| H. J. Harris, | W. B. Hines, | J. G. Jones, |
| J. M. Jones. | Benj. Jones, | R. J. Jones, |
| J. A. B. Jones, | G. C. Light, | H. T. Lewis, |
| J. A. Light, | J. C. Miller, | J. Mathews, |
| H. H. Montgomery, | H. Mullins, | D. A. J. Parker, |
| L. Pearce, | G. M. Rogers, | W. H. Sharbrough, |
| J. H. Shelton, | R. A. Sibley, | T. C. Thornton, |
| W. S. Townsend. | G. F. Thompson, | D. M. Wiggins, |
| J. Walton, | W. Wadsworth, | L. Wiley, |
| G. D. Wade, | J. J. Wheat, | H. M. Youngblood, |
| W. H. Watkins, | H. D. Berry, | D. McDonald, |

The following were absent at first call:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. B. Bowen, | H. M. Booth, | A. Castle, |
| P. Cooper, | Thos. Clinton, | Sam'l Dawson, |
| J. G. Deskins, | C. T. French, | P. E. Green, |
| J. L. Forsyth, | W. Ford, | J. S. Harris, |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. A. Godfrey, | W. Harrington, | J. P. Briggs, |
| W. B. Johnson, | Peter James, | C. K. Marshall, |
| John Lusk, | E. F. Mullins, | A. G. Miller, |
| J. H. Merrill, | J. M. Massey, | Jos. Nicholson, |
| Jas. Maclennan, | G. J. Mortimer, | J. O. Woodward, |
| A. B. Nicholson, | J. D. Newsom, | G. T. Vickers, |
| T. Owen, | F. M. Turner, | W. Price, |
| T. C. Parish, | H. Williamson, | F. W. Sharborough, |
| J. M. Pugh, | B. J. Woodward, | E. R. Strickland, |
| J. Nicholson, | B. Pipkin, | J. Maclennan, |

The following were probationers at the opening of this session:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| B. Avent,* | T. C. Rayner, | K. A. Jones,* |
| J. Boyes,* | A. J. Smith, | W. H. Mullins, |
| W. W. Graves, | E. M. Smalley, | J. W. McCrary,* |
| Jno. G. Hollins, | R. Abbey, | S. T. Swaney,* |
| J. W. Jones, | H. Copeland, | T. M. Ward,* |
| R. W. Lambuth,* | R. T. Hennington, | J. D. Willis,* |
| W. G. Millsaps,* | V. H. Johnston, | D. M. Wadsworth.* |

The following were re-admitted during the session:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| T. W. Castle, | J. J. Early, | J. H. Laney, |
| Thos. Price, | B. B. Whittington, | J. P. Lindeman. |

The total in full Connection with this body is 110; on probation, 27.

H. J. Harris was elected Secretary, and T. W. Brown assistant.

The usual Committees on Public Worship, Periodicals, Memrois, Education, Sunday Schools, Bible Cause; also, Conference Stewards, were appointed.

A committee of five were appointed, to consider and report to the Conference a plan of *lay representation* in the Conference, for the purpose of co-operation with us in financial operations, and the general benevolent enterprizes of the Conference, viz: L. Campbell, W. H. Watkins, B. M. Drake, J. G. Jones and L. Pearce.

W. P. Barton and H. J. Harris, were oppointed a committee to publish the minutes of the Conference.

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Marked thus * were received into full membership, second day of the Conference.

1857



A committee was appointed to memorialize the general Conference on the subject of *Theological Seminaries.*

The following Brethren were on proper recommendation, received on trial in the Conference, to-wit:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Garrot W. McNeil, | C. A. McNeil, | Cyrus P. Swiney, |
| Jacob C. Sellers, | John D. Shaw, | Green C. Fore. |
| Wm. Hoover, | Henry P. Lewis, | John A. Vance, |
| Wm. R. Rainey, | George Jackson, | T. L. McGraw. |
| A. R. Hines, | P. Howard, | |

The characters of the following Brethren, of one years' standing, passed, and were continued on trial: Wm. H. Scales, Richard T. Hennington, Vernon H. Johnston, Richard Abbey, John W. Jones, Albert Becton, John G. Hollins, H. Copeland, W. H. Mullins and W. W. Graves.

The following, after two years trial, were elected to membership in the Conference, and ordained Deacons: Alex. J. Smith, W. G. Millsaps, John Boyes, Dan'l M. Wadsworth, J. D. Willis, Wm. G. Smith, Kenneth A. Jones, T. M. Ward, Rob't W. Lambuth, Sam'l T. Swaney, Jno. W. McCrarey and Benj. Avent.

The following were ordained Deacons in the local Ministry: Benjamin A. Beason, Isham Brown, Wm. R. Rainey, Nathan Wilkinson, Wesley W. Funches, Jno. Willis, Joab L. Scarborough, Jas. T. Heath, JesseG. Bruner, and Alex. A. Lewis.

The following were ordained Elders in the traveling Ministry: Jno. W. Adams, John J. Clark, George H. Clinton, Francis M. Featherstown, Ephraim A. Flowers, Christopher R. Godfrey, Thos. C. Parish, George D. Wade, and Wm. Price.

The following were ordained Elders in the local Ministry: George C. Armstrong, David Rainey, Daniel McDonald, Jacob Carr, Jacob Holland, and Ebenezer Hays. These were all ordained on Sunday, the 21st Nov. 1857.

The following are superannuated: Sam'l Dawson, J. M. Turner, George T. Vickers, John R. Lambuth, and George C. Light, Thos. Owen, Thos. Clinton, Peter James, James O. Woodward, Jno. R. Lambuth.

The following supernumerary: Wm. M. Curtis.

The following located: James Maclennan.

The names of the preachers were called, and their characters inquired into, and all found blameless, except Richard T. Jones, who was expelled from the Ministry and Church.

Wm. H. Watkins, from the Committee on Memoirs, reported the following Memoir of Dr. Wm. Winans:

Wm. Winans was born int he State of Pennsylvania, on the 3rd of November, 1788.

The poverty of a widowed mother rendered it needful that he should, at an early age, labor for his own support, and that of other members of the family. He was thus employed in the iron foundries of his neighborhood, where association exposed him to every form of vice. He learned to participate in their vices, and his boyhood was clouded with sin.

Methodism, however, was sending its pioneers into that region, and his mother's house was the lodging-place for the preachers, and they often performed religious services there. He became awakened, and joined the church as a seeker of religion. When about sixteen, his family removed to the State of Ohio. He did not connect himself with the church for more than a year after their removal. He was, however, brought again to see his sin and to deplore it. Here he reentered the church, and after some months of earnest prayer, he professed to have found the forgiveness of sin, and to have received the direct witness of the Spirit to his adoption.

After many misgivings, produced by a conscious unfitness for the work of the Ministry, he finally yielded, and was received on trial into the Western Conference, in 1808. He traveled the first year what was known as Limestone Circuit, and in 1809, Vincennes Circuit. At the Conference held in Oct., 1810, he was admitted into full connection, and ordained Deacon by the venerable Bishop Asbury. Volunteers were called for at this conference for the "Natchez Country," and Sela Paine and Wm. Winans, responded to that call. Without delay, they set out for this then far off and destitute country; making the trip in mid-winter, and on horseback, through the "wilderness." His first appointment was to Attakapas Circuit, but his Presiding Elder placed him upon Claiborne Circuit. In April 1812, he took the place of Brother Houston—delegate to General Conference—on Wilkinson Circuit.

1857



In April, 1813, he was sent to Natchez Circuit; and the following November, (1814,) he was appointed to New Orleans. A stranger, without money or patronage, he entered upon his work —preaching in his own hired house, and teaching a small school in order to his own support, and the payment of the rent of the room used as a preaching place.

In 1815 he located; he had just married Martha Du Bose, a woman of great worth, of earnest piety and sincere devotion to the cause of God. Study had added to his education, and he engaged in school teaching. His impaired health had induced him to desist from the itineracy, and when it was sufficiently restored to allow of his return to the conference, he did so. Accordingly in 1820 he was re-admitted, and placed on the Natchez District. In 1822 he was presiding Elder of the Mississippi District. In 1825 he was transferred to Washington District, where he remained until 1829, when he was made conference agent. In 1830 and '31 he was superannuated on account of ill health. In 1832, Presiding Elder of the New Orleans District. In 1834, on Wilkinson Circuit. In 1837 he was appointed to New Orleans District, and in 1838 he was Presiding Elder of the Natchez District. In 1842 he was again made Presiding Elder of New Orleans District, and was continued in that relation until 1845, when he was appointed to Natchez District. In 1846 he was agent for Centenary College of Louisiana. In 1847, presiding Elder of the Natchez District. In 1848 he was stationed at Woodville. In 1849 he was re-appointed to the agency of Centenary College. In 1850 he was superannuated, in which relation he remained until his death.

From 1824 he was a member of the General Conference, and in almost all instances he headed the delegation. In 1828, 1836 and 1844, periods of our history when the church needed men of sound wisdom and uncompromising integrity, he stood up for her defense, unmoved—for he was mighty—with more than Roman courage, aye, with a martyr's fidelity and self-sacrificing zeal, he came forth to sustain the church or perish with her.

He was a man of inflexible purpose—untiring industry—of earnest piety—of vigorous intellect—of mighty faith in

God. In the early part of May, 1857, his already broken constitution began to give way under the violence of acute disease. His sufferings were intense, and yet he murmured not, he repined not. Bereft for the most part of the rapturous emotions of religious experience, his faith never failed him. Visions of glory passed before him, and from his dying couch, he looked, and saw the nearing home, where the weary rest with their risen Savior, and exclaimed, "Oh, that's the best of all!"

He had walked with God for more than fifty years, and God took him on the 31st day of August, 1857.

The feeble and failing partner of his laborious, honored and useful life, survives him.

Three children, his grand-children and great-grand-children, rise up and call him blessed, while the church and the country stand weeping by his grave.

Bro. Watkins, from the Committee on Memoirs then offered the following Report:

Dabney F. Lewis was a native of Kentucky; of his early youth we know but little. He had reached the majority of life before he became the subject of convicting grace. He felt himself moved by the Holy Ghost to enter the work of the ministry, and was received on trial at the Conference of 1844, and appointed to Atchafalya Circuit, and returned to the same Circuit in 1845—1846, Washington; '47, Wilkinson; '48, West Baton Rouge; '49, Chicot. In 1850 he was located, and was re-admitted in 1854 and sent to Percy's Creek; in 1855, same Circuit. In 1856 he traveled Buffalo Circuit; at the last (1856) Conference, he was sent to Homochitto Circuit, where he labored diligently and usefully until the time of his death. He was a good man, and died in full assurance of faith.

T. C. Thornton, from Committee on Memoirs, reported:

The Rev. Lewis Garrett was born on the 24th day of April, 1772, in the State of Pennsylvania, and died 28th of April, 1857, near Vernon, Mississippi, in the full assurance of faith, being aged eighty-five years and four days.

Soon after the birth of our brother, his father, Mr. Lewis Garrett, removed to Virginia, but in 1779 sold out his pos-

sessions in that State, and removed with his wife and eight children, in quest of a home in what was then called the far West. In some recollections, published by our departed brother, of himself and others, during the year 1848, he refers to the vivid impressions of those days, and the many difficulties this emigrant family had to encounter in its passage over the mountains to seek a home on the rich lands of Kentucky. On the way, his father died at a station on Clinch River, but his mother continued her journey under the protection of her brother, Morris Given, and other emigrant families, and took up her residence at Scott's Station, between Dicks and the Kentucky rivers, in the fall of 1779. There they erected cabins and remained during what was long called "The hard Winter," getting their corn at the hazzard of their lives from the Ohio, which, when procured, they had to pound in order to obtain from it their bread, and as all could not get even this, many lived chiefly on wild meat, and a wild pea growing in that country.

In the spring of 1780, the prowling savages commenced their attacks upon the whites. The second son of Mrs. G., named Phineas, about eleven years old, was captured by the Indians, and in 1783 her eldest son, Eli, about sixteen years old, being out on a hunting expedition, was also captured. The former was never heard of, the latter was not recovered until eighteen months. During the year 1782, Mr. Garrett's mother and sister became the subjects of a revival then in progress in that vicinity, but in 1786, a revival far more extensive and powerful, commenced through the instrumentality of James Haw and Benjamin Ogden, both of whom visited the widowed mother of young Garrett, who, although but a boy, was even then accustomed to mark and observe upon the pious and upright walk of these holy men. In 1787, Barnabas McHenry was appointed, in connection with James Haw, to Cumberland Circuit, and through the instrumentality of this good young man, who went about daily doing good at the hazzard of his life, young Garrett was first impressed with the necessity of religion. At what particular time and place he was converted, we do not find recorded in his recollections of those times. But in 1794, at the meeting of the

Western Conference, at Lewis,' near the Kentucky river, he, Moses Speer, and William Kavanaugh, were admitted on trial, and brother Garrett appointed with brother Kavanaugh to Green Circuit, in what is now called East Tennessee. He, with four other preachers, met at the Crab Orchard, and attended by about sixty men, proceeded on their way to their appointments, in iminent danger almost every hour of loosing their lives, by the Indians constantly prowling about for murder and plunder. The description given by Mr. Garrett of their difficulties and danger, is truly interesting, and displays the courage and deep devotion of the men of that day. In 1795 he was appointed to Russell's Circuit; in '96, to Orange; in '97, to Haw river; in '98, to Caswell; in '99, to Portsmouth; in 1800, to Glocester; in 1801, to Mecklenburg; in 1802, to Lexington, Ky; in 1803, Danville; in 1804, Presiding Elder on Cumberland District, in what was then called "The Western Conference;" in 1805, the same District. It appears on the general minutes, Mr. Garrett located at the Conference of 1806. Of this act he has the following account: "At this conference (1805) the writer (L. G.) of these sketches, found it necessary to desist from traveling at large. Twelve years' incessant travel and labor upon an extensive scale, had considerably enfeebled a once robust constitution." These, with family considerations, induced him to locate. In connection with the account of his location, he dilates on the happiness he enjoyed in those days of primitive Methodism, in his associations with many of those pioneers of the Gospel, whilst he traveled extensively through Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina, and especially does he mention the ever venerated names of Asbury and McHendry. But in a located condition he was not idle. Ever active when not pressed by family considerations, he was abundant in the work of the ministry; and as evidence of this fact, we need only say, that he was an active and a zealous participant in the extensive revivals in Kentucky and Tennessee, which occurred about the time, and soon after his location. These sketches of himself and others were first published in the "Western Methodist." Afterwards, when collected, they appeared in a small volume, printed at Yazoo

1857



City. In 1816 brother Garrett re-entered the traveling connection, and was appointed to Stone's river Circuit; in '17, to Dixon; in '18 and '19, to Cumberland; in '20, to Duck river; in '21, missionary to Jackson's purchase; in '22, Duck river District; in '23, Forked Deer District; in '24, to Nashville; in '25, '26, '27, '28, and '29, he held a supernumerary relation. In 1830, '31, '32 and '33, was Presiding Elder of Nashville District. In 1834 and '35 he was at the Book Depository. In 1836 a supernumerary at Nashville Station. In 1837 he located; but in 1840 brother G. appears as a superannuated preacher in the Mississippi Conference, which relation he sustained to that Conference until the time of his death.

Our venerable brother was a man of more than ordinary merit. In our opinion one of deep and undissembled piety. Generally of few words, and remarkable for his industry and zeal, as well as attachment to what he considered the ancient land-marks of Methodism. Having settled near Vernon, Madison County, Miss., he was employed as a missionary among the colored people, among whom he labored zealously as long as able to do so. At last, after having been a preacher at least sixty-three years, it was apparent to all his friends who visited him, that he was sinking apace. It is said that the last time he attended church, he was extremely happy, and he remarked to a brother who called to see and pray with him and his venerable lady, in the language of Wesley, "The best of all, God is with us."

He had but three sons. One of them had already departed, leaving behind an interesting family, that had endeared itself to him by many, very many kind attentions, and who now revere his memory, and recur to him as a model of piety. Another son was distant; but the third, M. Garrett, Esq., seeing the low condition, as to health, of his father, removed him to his own house, where he shortly afterwards died in great peace. When evidently fast sinking to the grave, he was frequently roused up, and asked respecting his feelings in prospect of death. He always answered his kind and attentive son, and other friends who came to see him, that all was well with Lewis Garrett. On one occasion, and just before

his death, a local minister called to see him, and addressing him, asked, "Brother Garrett, do you know me? Tell me, and let me know if all is well, and you are ready to die." To which he replied in his own laconic style, "To be sure brother Goodloe, I know you well, and I know the Lord Jesus Christ, too. His blood and righteousness I make my only plea."

These were the last words he spoke. Soon after he became speechless, but with signs gave testimony to the last that God was with him.

We might expatiate on the many virtues of this venerable servant of God, his deep and undissembled piety, his zeal, his usefulness—of which there is abundant evidence—but it would extend this notice to an unseasonable length. He leaves a wife, two sons and several grand-children to mourn his departure from their midst. It is not saying too much in praise of our departed brother, there have lived but very few such men as Lewis Garrett—habitually pious, and "holy in all manner of conversation and Godliness."

How applicable to such a man and such a cause, the text selected for his funeral, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand, I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give at that day, and not to me only, but to all them that love his appearing."—AMEN.

## The following Table of Statistics, shows the Number of Members in the Church.

| | WHITES. | BLACKS. | LOCAL PREACHERS | S. SCHOOL SCHOLARS. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NATCHEZ DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Natchez, | 249 | 491 | 2 | 155 |
| Woodville, | 211 | 180 | 1 | 60 |
| Laurel Hill Mission, | 4 | 300 | | |
| Washington and Colored Mission, | 50 | 425 | | |
| Kingston, | 15 | 172 | | |
| Buffalo | 271 | 59 | 5 | |
| Homochitto, | | 145 | | |
| Wilkinson, | 246 | 357 | 1 | 30 |
| Pinkneyville and Barrow's, | 13 | 91 | | |
| Percy's Creek, | 100 | 472 | 1 | 35 |
| Clinton, | 62 | 67 | 1 | 45 |
| East Feliciana, | 291 | | 5 | 100 |
| " " Colored Mission, | | 765 | | |
| Jackson, | 132 | 105 | 1 | 70 |
| Bayou Sara and Colored Mission, | 25 | 50 | 1 | 12 |
| Total, | 1,669 | 3,679 | 18 | 507 |
| FAYETTE DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Fayette Circuit, | 262 | | 3 | 70 |
| South Jefferson Colored Mission, | | 481 | | |
| North " " " | | 144 | | |
| Scotland, | 297 | 204 | 3 | 30 |
| Bayou Pierre, | 450 | | 4 | 36 |
| " " Colored Mission, | | 288 | | |
| Georgetown, | 528 | 74 | 5 | 75 |
| Pearl River, | 526 | 175 | 12 | 75 |
| Amite, | 437 | 374 | 9 | |
| St. Helena, | 266 | 150 | 6 | 55 |
| Total, | 2,766 | 1,890 | 42 | 341 |
| VICKSBURG DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Vicksburg, | 221 | | 1 | 160 |
| " Colored Mission, | | 100 | | |
| Warren and " " | 193 | 294 | 1 | |
| Clinton, | 458 | 365 | 2 | 130 |
| Austin Mission, | | 89 | | |
| Raymond and Spring Ridge, | 218 | 267 | 7 | 75 |
| Jackson, | 148 | 196 | | 75 |
| Crystal Springs, | 408 | 202 | 4 | 92 |
| Port Gibson, Grand Gulf and Colored Mission, | 105 | 112 | | 60 |
| Rocky Springs, | 80 | 244 | | |
| Total, | 1,832 | 1,869 | 15 | 592 |
| GREENVILLE DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Greenville, | 80 | 360 | 1 | 25 |
| " Colored Mission, | | 417 | | |
| Bolivar, | 32 | 350 | | |
| Miller's Bend, | 11 | 47 | | |
| Middle Deer Creek, | 12 | 540 | | |
| Lower " " | 32 | 283 | 1 | 20 |
| Tallula | 32 | 698 | | 12 |
| Sunflower Mission, | 37 | 48 | 1 | |
| Total, | 236 | 2,743 | 3 | 57 |

## STATISTICS CONTINUED.

| | WHITES. | BLACKS. | LOCAL PREACHERS | S. SCHOOL SCHOLARS. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YAZOO DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Yazoo City, | 90 | 89 | 1 | 80 |
| " Mission, | | 153 | | |
| " Circuit, | 327 | 58 | 6 | 65 |
| Big Black Mission, | | 465 | | |
| Valley Mission, | | 91 | | |
| Holmes, | 183 | 51 | | |
| Richland and Lexington, | 124 | 126 | | 97 |
| Ebenezer, | 136 | 233 | 1 | 30 |
| Black Hawk, | 528 | 82 | 4 | 95 |
| Middleton, | 433 | 165 | 5 | |
| Carrolton, | 288 | 75 | 1 | 30 |
| Carrol Mission, | | | | |
| Sidon " | 3 | 117 | | |
| Honey Island Mission, | 2 | 154 | | |
| Greenwood Mission, | 70 | 125 | | |
| North Warren, | 198 | | | 12 |
| " " Mission, | | 58 | | |
| Total, | 2,382 | 2,042 | 18 | 409 |
| SHARON DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Sharon and Thornton Chapel, | 172 | 104 | 1 | 80 |
| Canton, | 130 | 150 | 2 | 100 |
| Madison Mission, | | 65 | | |
| Vernon, Livingston and Mission, | 73 | 74 | 2 | |
| Robinson's Plantation, | | 112 | | |
| Carthage, | 405 | 60 | 10 | 80 |
| Attala, | 596 | 54 | 5 | |
| Bankston, | 636 | 45 | 5 | 200 |
| Greensborough Mission, | 430 | 22 | 5 | |
| Starkville and Pierce's Chapel, | 112 | 78 | 1 | 50 |
| Oktibbeha Mission, | 262 | 153 | 1 | 54 |
| Camden, | 200 | 42 | 3 | 50 |
| McWillie's Colored Mission, | | 96 | | |
| Total, | 3,016 | 1,055 | 35 | 614 |
| PAULDING DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Paulding, | 407 | 103 | 3 | 30 |
| Westville, | 247 | 95 | 4 | 25 |
| Tallahola Mission, | | 100 | | |
| Raleigh, | 200 | 30 | 4 | 40 |
| Polkville Mission, | 242 | 44 | 4 | |
| Brandon, | 690 | 310 | 8 | 222 |
| Hillsboro', | 412 | 64 | 7 | |
| Decatur, | 338 | | 5 | |
| Philadelphia, | 380 | 90 | 8 | 60 |
| Louisville, | 671 | 142 | 10 | 120 |
| Total, | 3,587 | 978 | 53 | 497 |
| COVINGTON DISTRICT— | | | | |
| Covington, | 112 | 190 | | 125 |
| Franklinton, | 295 | 75 | 3 | 110 |
| Gainesville, | 43 | 25 | 1 | 18 |
| Columbia, | 131 | 40 | 2 | 6 |
| Sea Shore, | 150 | 69 | 5 | |
| Leaf River Mission, | 151 | 16 | 4 | |

## STATISTICS CONTINUED.

| | WHITES. | BLACKS. | LOCAL PREACHERS | S. SCHOOL SCHOLARS. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black Creek Mission, | 153 | 7 | 2 | |
| Livingston, | 330 | 378 | 6 | 86 |
| East Baton Rouge, | 159 | 47 | 2 | 37 |
| Total, | 1,524 | 547 | 25 | 382 |
| *RECAPITULATION.* | | | | |
| Natchez District, | 1,669 | 3,679 | 18 | 507 |
| Fayette " | 2,766 | 1,890 | 42 | 341 |
| Vicksburg " | 1,862 | 1,869 | 15 | 592 |
| Greenville " | 236 | 2,743 | 3 | 57 |
| Yazoo " | 2,382 | 2,042 | 18 | 409 |
| Sharon " | 3,016 | 1,055 | 35 | 614 |
| Paulding " | 3,587 | 978 | 53 | 497 |
| Covington " | 1,524 | 547 | 25 | 382 |
| TOTAL, | 17,042 | 14,803 | 209 | 3,399 |

Of this number, 3,179 are white probationers, and 4,239 colored probationers.

## REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Missionary Society of this Conference held its Anniversary in the Methodist Church, Brandon, Saturday night, Nov. 21st, 1857. Dr. Drake, the venerable President, in the Chair. Religious services by Brother Watkins.

Report of the Secretary, W. P. Barton, was read. and a synopsis of the Report of the Treasurer, W. H. Watkins, was also read.

The Addresses were by C. K. Marshall and Dr. Sehon, the General Missionary Secretary of the M. E. Church, South. After which the collection was taken, amounting in cash and subscriptions, (most of which has since been realized,) to $1,200, which, added to the other collections for the year, make the sum raised for Missionary purposes, by this Confereoce, $10,705 65.

After the collection was taken, the Society elected the following Officers and Managers for the ensuing year:

Rev. B. M. DRAKE, D. D., President. Rev. W. P. BARTON, Sec'y.
Rev. W. H. WATKINS, Treasurer.

### MANAGERS.

Rev. J. WALTON,
Rev. D. M. WIGGINS,
Rev. L. WILEY,
Rev. J. C. MILLER.
Rev. T. C. THORNTON,
Rev. JAS. A. GODFREY,
Rev. J. L. FORSYTH,

# Report of the Secretary of the Missionary Society.

BRETHREN: We are not prepared to make more than a general report of the condition of Missions in our bounds, for reasons not necessary to mention, which we hope will be removed, when our Society shall more fully recognize the importance of requiring system in her Missionaries' Reports.

We congratulate you, Christian friends, on the growing interest felt in our bounds, in this glorious cause.

Our Home Missions are most interesting and encouraging. Among our poor and sparcely settled regions, the toilsome work is patiently done, and with gracious results.

Our Missions to the colored people are our peculiar pride and cherished interest. Our hearts are melted in love and praise to God to know the light of the Gospel shines into thousands of hearts on our broad cotton plantations on the Mississippi, Yazoo and Big Black, and over the fertile plains and rich hills of our growing State.

Our great valley between the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers, is opening to receive our Missionaries, and the call is for more laborers. We thank the Lord of the harvest, the cry is not altogether in vain. Our ranks are filling with young men of talent and cultivation, sanctified to the Master's use, and expect still greater results as we spread the net to a greater compass. Our hope is in God—we will not be disappointed.

It is cheering to hear our Treasurer report "No falling off in our Missionary collections," notwithstanding the great pressure many anticipated, and to some extent realized, at the time most of our Missionary collections were taken. It augurs well, for He has promised if the tithes and offerings are brought into His Treasury, he will pour out a blessing such as there shall not be room to contain it. Oh, may that blessing come quickly to these fields now whitening to the harvest.

Brother English, who has faithfully labored on Sidon Mission the past year, reports eleven appointments in a small compass; a growing interest among all, and a marked improvement among the colored people. He faithfully attended to the instruction of the colored people, near 400 of whom were regularly catechised. Baptism was not neglected by him.

Big Black Colored Mission is reported so meagerly that we can only say that from the known zeal of the Missionary and the 465 members, the children catechised, good work must have been done there.

Bro. P. E. Green reports the small work in connection with the

Bayou Sara work, in a good condition, except one appointment. The baptism of children and adults was attended to, also catechetical instruction.

Bro. H. Williamson reports Honey Island Mission as in an encouraging state. He too attended to the catechetical instruction of his charge.

Bro. Copeland reports from Vicksburg Mission encouragingly. No notice of any catechetical instruction.

Bro. Becton has labored on the Yazoo Mission the past year, a field that might engage the heart and talents of a Bishop, and well repays the toils of the industrious reaper, judging from the 115 probationers added the past year to the 35 members there in the beginning.

We take particular pleasure in copying brother J. H. Massey's report of Leaf River Mission, only taking the liberty to abbreviate a little of the beginning and to omit the names of the preaching places. We commend this report to our brethren who seem not to have caught the idea of the nature and intention of a Missionary report, and think all is done when the bare statistics are given. Bro. Massey says:

"I entered my work as soon as I could get to it, losing but one appointment by high water. I stuck to my work as faithfully as I could, and meet the claims of a suffering family. I have preached at 26 places a good part of the year. We have no church of our own worth naming. Our congregations are all small. The families come by parts, some one time, some another—so we hope all hear. I have visited one hundred and three families, reading the word of God and explaining it, and exhorting them collectively and individually to attend to their soul's interest. I have instructed over two hundred children under 15 years of age. Many of those we visit, and who attend our ministry belong to other denominations—many have no connection with any church. We believe the influence of our ministry extends in some measure to one thousand persons, white and colored. We are humbled in reviewing the past year, and remember that we have only taken 10 into full connection and 15 on probation; meantime two have died, some removed, and some were expelled, making a decrease from all these causes of 14 members.

We trust that as we close up our work, we leave the church in a better condition than it has been for near two years. We hope for much good to be done in this work another year. We have no Sabbath Schools, nor Sabbath School collections. We have a "Tract Society," paying $3 75 for Tracts to be sent them. We collected $132 Missionary money. They paid the Presiding Elder, Jas. Y. Griffing, $10, and me, $122. No new sebscriber to the New Orleans Christian Advocate. Seven "Sunday School Visitors" taken. I have baptised 3 adults, 10 white and 8 colored children." J. H. MASSEY.

Again I must commend this as a model Report. It touches briefly but in the clearest manner, every material interest of the Church. In it we see the labors of the man and the exact result.

**Bro. Parrish's report from Oktibbeha Mission speaks for itself. Brethren on Missions go and do likewise.**

DEAR BROTHER: I submit the Report of the Oktibbeha Mission. Said Mission is mixed—a part to the whites and a portion to the colored people. We have had some difficulties to overcome, but have preached to nine white appointments, and five colored every four weeks. Have joined in full connection 40; on probation 52 whites, and 34 colored; baptised 18 white adults, 23 infants, 8 negro adults, 10 infants; visited 150 families. I find a destitution of Books. Now in Society, 210 whites in full connection, 52 on probation; 119 colored, in full connection, 31 on probation.

Value of church property, 2,000 dollars. Supposed number that attend church, 1,000.

All of which is respectfully submitted. T. C. PARRISH.

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North Warren Mission:

DEAR BROTHER: We have 13 appointments, 58 probationers. Unable to get children together to instruct them from time to time. No names of members on said Mission the year before, therefore none in full connection. Amount received, 307 dollars.

Several appointments will be left out on account of removals. J. W. JONES.

Nov. 20th, 1857.

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Report of Polkville Mission:

DEAR BROTHER: This Mission has white members on Mission, 171—probations, 71; colored members on Mission, 44; 10 preaching places with organized Societies. About five hundred preached to; on the Mission about twenty-five children instructed. There are no Sabbath Schools. The Mission is in good condition—looking up.

The above is a white Mission. R. A. SIBLEY.

Nov. 21st, 1857.

A brief report from Bolivar Colored Mission, without name, (who wrote it?) says, "The Mission is in a flourishing condition; many applications for preaching declined by me, because my time was fully employed. We need another preacher." Thank God for open doors.

Bro. David Raney reports the McWillie Mission in a flourishing condition. His statistics show he has accomplished something the past year

Bro. Higginbotham reports E. Feliciana Colored Mission in a prosperous condition. Some old fashioned conversions and happy deaths. Thank God for a religion that triumphs over death.

Some Brother, without any signature, reports Austin Mission growing.

Bro. E. M. Smalley's Report from Greenville Mission, shows encouraging results.

These are all the Missionaries who have reported, and though some of these reports would be more satisfactory if more explicit and extensive, still they are an encouraging improvement on anything that has been done in this department since your humble servant occupied the place of Secretary of this Society, and I hope that so soon as our Brethren are fully aware of the nature and importance of distinct reports, we will get them uniformly. Our Society has unfortunately, lost its Constitution, and we are therefore rather loose in our operations, and our Brethren are some time in finding out what is to be done.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. BARTON, Secretary,

Missionary Society of Miss. Conference.

# Report of the Treasurer of the Missionary Society.

## NATCHEZ DISTRICT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Natchez (Juvenile Missionary Society,) | $ 233 | 00 |
| Kingston, | 71 | |
| Woodvillle, | 220 | |
| Wilkinson, (for China $75.) | 318 | 20 |
| Pinckneyville and Barrows, | 30 | |
| Percys Creek, | 600 | |
| Clinton, Louisiana, | 20 | |
| East Feliciana Colored Mission, | 388 | |
| East Feliciana, | 120 | |
| Bayou Sara, | 100 | |
| | 2,110 | 20 |

## FAYETTE DISTRICT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fayette, (for China $35.) | 120 | |
| South Jefferson Colored Mission, | 376 | 50 |
| North Jefferson do do | 168 | 95 |
| Scotland, | 15 | |
| Bayou Pierre, | 142 | |
| Georgetown, | 70 | |
| Pearl River, | 10 | 55 |
| Amite, | 6 | 70 |
| | 909 | 90 |

## VICKSBURG DISTRICT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vicksburg, (Sabbath School for China, 40.) | 365 | |
| Warren, | 545 | |
| Clinton, Mississippi, (for our Mission in China $36.) | 71 | 05 |
| Raymond and Spring Ridge, (Juvenile Missionary Society of Raymond $15.) | 103 | 45 |
| Jackson, | 107 | 20 |
| Crystal Spring, | 20 | |
| Port Gibson and Grand Gulf, | 440 | 50 |
| Rocky Spring, (for China $35.) | 336 | 75 |
| | 1988 | 95 |

## GREENVILLE DISTRICT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Greenville, | 96 |
| do Colored Mission, | 430 |
| Lower Deer Creek, | 530 |
| Tallula, | 22 |
| | 1078 |

## COVINGTON DISTRICT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Covington, | 20 | 50 |
| Livingston, | 1 | |
| St. Helena, | 95 | |
| East Baton Rouge, | 32 | 90 |
| Columbia, | 10 | |
| | 157 | 40 |

## YAZOO DISTRICT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yazoo City, | 3 | |
| do County, | 26 | 10 |
| do Colored Mission, | 300 | |
| Big Black do do | 400 | |
| Valley, do do | 400 | |
| Richland and Lexington, | 169 | 40 |
| Ebenezer, (for Indian Missions,) | 28 | 05 |
| Hodey Island Colored Mission, | 175 | |
| Black Hawk, (for Home Missions $20,) | 67 | |
| Middleton, | 46 | |
| Carrolton, | 30 | |
| Sidon, | 286 | |
| North Warren, | 32 | 50 |
| Franklinton, | 25 | |
| | 1,980 | 05 |

## PAULDING DISTRICT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Paulding, | 58 | 25 |
| Westville, | 17 | 80 |
| Raleigh, | 5 | 50 |
| Hillsboro' | 100 | |
| Philadelphia, | 1 | 50 |
| Louisville, (for China $5,) | 20 | 25 |
| Polkville, | 310 | |
| | 513 | 50 |

## SHARON DISTRICT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sharon and Thornton Chapel, | 8 | |
| Canton, (paid to China Mission $64,) | 124 | 29 |
| Madison Colored Mission, | 550 | 40 |
| Vernon and Livingston, | 20 | |
| Carthage, | 13 | |
| Attala, | 707 | 25 |
| Bankston, | 60 | |
| Greensboro,' | 216 | |
| Camden, | 209 | |
| | 1,918 | 35 |

## DONATIONS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| G. T. Vickers,—to make D. S. Pepper, L. M., | 20 | |
| Miss Martha Glass, | 5 | |
| Mrs. Lucy Barton and Miss Emily Barton, | 5 | |
| Collected at Anniversary of Conference Missionary Society, in cash and pledges, | 856 | 90 |
| | 886 | 90 |

W. H. WATKINS, Secretary.

1857

## BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.

On Monday night, November 23d, 1857, the Book and Tract Society of the Mississippi Conference, held its Anniversary in the Methodist Church, Brandon. The Agent's report was very encouraging, showing he had eaten no idle bread, nor had he labored in vain. We omit the publication of the report, and also of the Charter of the Society, and other valuable documents relating to this interest of the Church, as the agent has them now in course of publication, in a pamphlet form, that will be widely circulated. The report shows near $25,000 in cash, and $100 drafts on responsible men, as the fruit of his year's labor. The collection on the night of the 23d, was near $70.

The following were elected Officers of the Society for the ensuing year:

C. K. MARSHALL, Prest. D. M. WIGGINS, Vice Prest.
J. A. LIGHT, Secretary, W. P. BARTON, Treasurer.

The following were elected as Managers:

H. H. MONTGOMERY, E. G. COOK.
J. L. FORSYTH. J. F. RIEVES,
R. ABBEY, A. B. READING,
L. WILEY, WM. CRUTCHER,
J. J. WHEAT, JAS. THARP,
J. A. B. JONES, R. H. SMITH.

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On Wednesday, November 24, the great absorbing question of this session, came up for discussion, on the presentation of the report of the Agent of the "Book and Tract Society" of this Conference.

Some of the Brethren thought the acts of the Book and Tract Society illegal and dangerous, and specially the CHARTER AND BY-LAWS, under which they act. Bro. John C. Miller, B. M. Drake, and others, spoke with ability and zeal aginst, and Bros. Marshall and Abbey, as ably for the Society. The discussion was ended by the following resolutions, offered by Bro. L. Pearce:

1. *Resolved*, That the Mississippi Annual Conference, does not feel prepared to adopt, at present, the Book and Tract Society, as presented here, chartered and domiciled in Vicksburg.

2. That the Conference recommend said Society to proceed under its charter, and carry out its purposes, as set forth.

3. That a Committee of six members of this Conference, be appointed to examine the charter and laws of said Society, with legal counsel,

if necessary, and to propose such amendments and additions thereto, as they may see proper, to guard the Conference from injurious complications, and promote the distribution of the tracts and publications of the Southern Methodist Book Concern.

4. That so soon as the corporation accepts the alterations, if any, proposed by said Committee, and they are made in the charter, said Society as incorporated, shall have power to proceed in its business till the meeting of the next annual Conference, when said Committee shall make its report.

Under the 3d resolution, a Committee of six were appointed, as follows: B. M. Drake, J. G. Jones, L. Pearce, W. H. Watkins, W. P. Barton and John Lusk, who, upon the adjournment of Conference proceeded to Vicksburg, and after such alterations, as were deemed necessary to harmonize the views of all parties, were made in the charter, and agreed to by the Board of Managers; the Committee published the following card:

BOOK AND SRACT SOCIETY OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.

On the presentation to the Mississippi Conference, of the reports of the Agent and Board of Managers of the "Book and Tract Society of the Mississippi Conference," after a full and free discussion of the same; it was suggested that certain modifications in the Charter of said Society would be desirable in order to its better practical working. Whereupon, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to confer with the Board of Managers, in relation to such modifications, and to procure such changes as might be deemed useful.

We have discharged that duty, and the Board has readily and unanimously concurred in such changes as were recommended.

All conflicting opinions in relation to the said Book and Tract Society, being thus harmonized, it is understood the same has the plenary sanction of the Mississippi Conference, and we heartily bespeak for the said Society, the good countenance and encouragement of the Church.

B. M. DKAKE, J. G. JONES,
L. PEARCE, W. H. WATKINS,
W. P. BARTON, JOHN LUSK.

VICKSBURG, Nov. 26, 1857.

## REPORT ON LAY REPRESENTATION.

On motion of Bro. Campbell a Committee was appointed to consider and report to conference a plan of *lay representation*, for the purpose of co-operatating with us in reference to our financial operations, and the general benevolent enterprizes of the Conference, viz: L. Campbell, W. H. Watkins, B. M. Drake, J. G. Jones and L. Pearce.

The Committee appointed to consider and report to the Conference, a plan for Lay Representation in the Conference have had the subject under consideration, and, in view of the importance of the ends intended to be accomplished by the union of the zeal, piety and wisdom, of the laity of the Church with that of the members of the Conference, we hope the approaching General Conference will perfect a uniform plan of operation to be adopted by all the Conferences.

We recommend that all the Quarterly Conferences elect, at their third or fourth meeting for the ensuing year, a Lay Committeeman, whose duty it shall be to attend the next session of this Annual Conference, and take such part in the proceedings of the varions Committees of the Conference as may be fit. We recommend the appointment of a Chairman upon the following Committees, viz: On Education, Missions, Bible Cause, Sunday Schools, Ministerial Support and Church Publications.

In compliance with the above, the chair appointed the following chairmen of Committees, to-wit,

On Education, J. C. MILLER, Church Publications, B. M. DRAKE,
Missions, T. C. THORNTON, Ministerial Support, L. CAMPBELL.
Bible Cause, J. L. FORSYTH, Sunday Schools, H. M. BOOTH.

## EDUCATION.

Our last Annual Conference at Kosiusko, appointed Rev. Dr. Drake, representative of this body to the educational Convention of the M. E. Church, South, held in Nashville, April, 1857, Dr. Drake, reports to this Conference as follows:

The appointee of this Conference to attend the Educational Institute in Nashville, Tenn., in the month of April, begs leave to report, that he has fulfilled the duties assigned him, to the best of his ability. The Institute was respectably attended, and many subjects of vital interest were largely discussed. The Institute adjourned to meet again in Nashville, the second Monday in May next, with the intention of co-operating with the General Conference, on the Educational interests of the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
B. M. DRAKE.

## MEMORIAL ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Dr. Drake, Chairman of the Committee to memorialize the General Conference, on the subject of Ministerial Education, submitted the following:

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of a memorial to the ensuing General Conference on Ministerial Education, submit the following report:

The Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, beg leave to memoralize the General Conference of said Church, (to meet in Nashville, May, 1858,) on the subject of Ministerial Education. Your memorialists would suggest that, for the first century of the existence of Methodism, in Europe and America, the uniform plan of training young men for the mihistry in her communion *was in the active duty of thatholy vocation.*

About the year 1840, the Wesleyan Conference in England, established one or more Biblical Institutes. In 1846, the Geneарl Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, recognized the same plan, which had, in some measure, been introduced into the Church, by private enterprize or annual Conference action.

For the last few years the subject has been largely discussed in the periodicals of the Church, South; and, in several instances, by private associations or annual Conference action, incipient measures have been taken to establish similar institutions in the Church, South.

Your memorialists greatly prefer the ancient landmarks, on this subject; believing that, under its auspices, God has raised up a body of Ministers not inferior to any in *effectiveness* in any age or country.

Your memorialists are favorable to ministerial improvement, so as to meet the divine requisition, that the "lips of the priest should keep knowledge," or "show yourselves approved workmen that need not be ashamed."

The better to accomplish this object, your memorialists would suggest that the General Conference, perfect and greatly enlarge the course of study, presented to our young men, and improve the manner of their examination.

The action of the General Conference favorably and effectively on this subject, your memorialists believe would do much to stop the demand, in some quarters, for the change of our policy, or the establishment of Theological Seminaries. This change, your memorialists would greatly deprecate, and, therefore, most earnestly pray your body so to improve our present plan, as to render it unnecessary.

Your memorialists would suggest, if the change must take place, it had better be under the supervision, and with the guards that the General Conference alone can throw around it.

In a connectional Church, it is exceedingly important that all its important rules and measures should be uniform. In the view of your memorialists few things are more vital to the interest of the Church, than the proper selection and training of its ministry. Hence, your interposition is most earnestly invoked to direct and guide these interests.

1857



## CENTENARY COLLEGE.

*To the President and Members of the Mississippi Annual Conference:*

DEAR BRETHREN—In as much as your Committee, appointed to visit Centenary College, of Louisiana, have failed, thus far, to submit a report to the Conference, the undersigned has thought proper to lay before you, the following statements:

The College has now entered upon its thirteenth session. It has continued to progress in usefulness and public confidence, and gives increased promise of permanency and benefit to the Church, and the world. We average over two hundred stndents per year. Our patronage is becoming more regular and more profitable. We have graduated about one hundred and fifty young men, many of whom, are now filling prominent positions in the ministry, besides Physicians, Lawyers, Planters, etc., who are ornaments to society, and an honor to the institution. The faculty consists of eight gentlemen, experienced, competent, industrious, and all, with one exception, membors of our Church. Our accommodations are now ample for three hundred students, and we hope soon to see our halls full. The new building will be ready for use, by the first of January next. It will cost about $60,000, of which we have yet to collect about $24,000. Of this sum $16,000 is subscribed, leaving a balance of $8000 yet to be secured. So far, we have labored in this heavy financial engagement without an agent.

Our endowment fund is now about $25,000. It is still increasing, and I am happy to be able to say, that since I came to this Conference, one of its members has added to that fund, by donation, the sum of $1000, and we look for more. The permanent endowment of this College ought to be an object of hope, labor and prayer, to every member of this Conference.

In conclusion, we ask at your hands, brethren, for an institution of your own founding, and to which you and the Louisiana Conference, are bound by indissoluble ties, faithful co-operation with us in prayer and labor for the increased prosperity and usefulness of Centenary College, of Louisiana.

In hope of an opportunity to say something further when the educational report is submitted, I remain, your brother,

JOHN C. MILLER.

## REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools having examined the statistics on the subject, beg leave to report:

That they are more than ever encouraged at their brightening prospects of the institution, and regard it as a great auxiliary of the ever-

lasting gospel, and is doubtless doing more toward directing the thoughts and affections of the youthful minds in the paths of truth and virtue, than any other cause whatever. It is an institution which seems to be peculiarly blessed of heaven, and one, which not only claims the attention, but which should engage the energies of every patriot, as well as every Christian, as the perpetuity of our free, civil and religious institutions, depends upon the virtue and morality of our people.

Ours is an age of advancement. The time has arrived when the energies of the Church of God, must be exerted to the utmost. We are growing great; our influence is extensively felt in the world; and this influence must be for good upon the nations of the earth, in proportion to the moral and religious education of the rising generation and the general diffusion of religious knowledge. Much has been done by our Church, in the all-important cause of early religious instruction. The Sabbath School institution, is now engaging the attention of the wise and good all over the christian world. According to recent investigation on this subject, about four millions five hundred thousand children are now being instructed in these nurseries of truth and piety.

The statistical report of our own Conference for the present year is as follows: Number of Schools 112, number of Scholars 3,254, volumes in Library 11,865, money collected $1,711.

These figures are far below what they should be, when we consider the importance of the cause; and yet an equal number of scholars in each of the Conferences within our limits, would swell the number to a mighty army—an army of cadets, now being educated to fight the battles of the Lord.

Your Committee, have examined the little Manual, which was referred to them by the Conference, on the subject of Sunday School exercises, published in Baltimore, by Armstrong & Berry. We believe the volume valuable, and recommend it to our Book Agents at Nashville, for publication, to be placed in the catalogue of our Sunday School books.

*Resolved*, That we highly appreciate the indefatigable and successful labors of our book and tract editor, in furnishing the Church with a large and interesting supply of Sunday School books. We recommend them to our people.

JOHN T. DEW.
W. P. BARTON,
J. L. FORSYTH,

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## REPORT ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

The Committee on the Bible Cause, begs leave to report:

As the Bible is a revelation of the will of God, concerning men in Christ Jesus, all should be in possession of it.

Among other good things, the American Bible Society, proposes to supply every family in our country with a copy of the Scriptures, without note or comment. This feature is sufficient to commend the society to every philanthropist and patriot. We hope it will.

We are pleased to know that there is some interest felt and manifested in our bounds for the success of the A. B. S. According to the reports made to our Conference, $3,335 have been collected among our people, and in our congregations, during the Conference year. While this amount will enable the Society to do much good, we do not believe it is a tenth of what might be done—ought to be done.

The fact that no Agent has been appointed to present the claims of the Society to the people, is one reason why so little has been done. An Agent has been in some three Counties, in the Northern part of the Conference, and another in a small portion of the Southern part of the Conference, while the middle and Eeastern portions have been unvisited and unexplored. And so far as we can learn the Agents of the A. B. S. have never visited more than two Counties east of Pearl river—Rankin and Scott. From this information, we are inclined to believe that there is great destitution ; such, too, as will not be supplied unless an Agent should be sent into that region.

Some time last summer, Bro. Abbey, under the impression that much ought to be done in this cause, in that portion of the Conference, as well as in other portions, addressed a letter to the American Bible Society, urging them to appoint an Agent for this region. The Chairman of this Committee addressed a letter to Dr. Holdich, last August, in which the condition of a large portion of the country was presented, and also, informed him of the routes the Bible Agents usually took, showing the necessity of an Agent, to canvass the Counties East of Pearl river.

He suggested the name of Bro. C. K. Marshall, as a suitable person for that Agency, if his services could be secured. This had not been before Bro. Marshall ; but he hoped that a correspondence would be opened by some of the Board, at New York, with Bro. Marshall, and that his services might be secured. We are pleased to learn that he has consented to accept and act.

We would offer the following resolutions :

*Resolved*, That we are as much as ever convinced of the importance of the circulation of the Bible, in our own language, throughout our entire country.

*Resolved*, That we approve of the plans of operations of the A. B. S. in supplying every destitute family.

*Resolved*, By this Conference, that in view of the opposition set up in certain quarters, to the American Bible Society, because of their action in issuing a uniform standard edition of the Holy Scriptures, that we heartily approve the action of that truly Catholic, and noble institution, and bespeak the confidence and hearty co-operation of our friends and brethren in our bounds, for this Society.

*Resolved*, That we respectfully request Bishop Early, to affirm the

appointment of Bro. C. K. Marshall, as Bible Agent, to travel in this Conference,

Respectfully,
H. H. MONTGOMERY Ch'n.

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE STEWARDS.

The report of the Conference Stewards as to the amount collected, and manner of its disbursement, not appearing, we introduce their assessment, which was made by resolution of the Conference, for the current year.

The board of Stewards, to whom was assigned the duty of assessing the amount necessary for the support of the Ministers and Claimants, beg leave to submit the following assessment, to-wit:

| | |
|---|---|
| Amount required in full, | $4,000 00 |
| To be distributed for collection as follows: | |
| Natchez District, | $900 00 |
| Vicksburg do | 900 00 |
| Yazoo do | 700 00 |
| Sharon do | 500 00 |
| Fayette do | 300 00 |
| Greenville do | 400 00 |
| Paulding do | 150 00 |
| Covington do | 150 00 |
| Amount as above, | $4000 00 |
| Present necessitous Claim, | 3300 00 |
| For deficit in Preachers Claims, | 700 00 |
| As above, | $4000 00 |

All of which is respectfuliy submitted,

J. A. LIGHT,
L. ECRANBRACK,
J. A. GODFREY,
} Committee of Stewards.

## MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

*Resolved*, That the funds in the hands of James Y. Griffing, known as the Rawls donation, be placed in the hands of the trustees of the Van Houten bequest, and the interest which has accrued thereon be applied according to the will of the donor.

*Resolved*, That L. Pearce is authorized to loan the money bequeathed by Miss Adelade A. Geron, to this Conference, the interest of which is to be applied to the education of the daughters of itinerant ministers, collect the interest and loan it also, until some one be selected by the Conference as a beneficiary.

*Resolved*, That Bishop Early, be respectfully requested to appoint Bro. Abbey, Agent of the Book and Tract Society of this Conference.

*Resolved*, That a collection be taken in every charge, during the first week in April next, to defray the expenses of our delegates to the General Conference, and forwarded to C. K. Marshall, Treasurer of the delegation, or handed to the nearest delegate.

*Resolved,* That our delegates to the next General Conference, be and are hereby instructed to use their influence to have the Southern tier of Counties of this State, (now embraced in the Memphis Conference,) added to this Conference.

*Resolved,* That the Publishing House, at Nashville, having prepared a Church Register, in response to a resolution passed at the last session of this Conference, the Preachers, in charge of every Church throughout the bounds of this Conference be, and are hereby required to have the said Register adopted at once, as the permanent record hereafter to be used.

*Resolved,* That we take our Missionary collections in the month of October next.

*Resolved,* That the money which has been collected during the year past, for a Church in China, be committed to the General Missionary Board at Nashville, to be at their disposal, until they deem it best to erect a Church in China for Bro. J. W. Lambuth.

## ALABAMA CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

Bishop Early presented the Alabama Conference resolutions on the subject of amending the general rules, by striking out the following:

"Buying or selling men, women, and children, with the intention to enslave them."

Also, the resolutions of the Holstein Conference, in reference to Conference boundaries.

The Mississippi Conference resolved to concur with the Alabama, by a vote of seventy-nine for, to seven against, and refused to concur with the Holstein, by a vote of seven for, and sixty-six, against.

## DR. WINANS' WRITINGS.

Whereas, the late Dr. William Winans, a member of this Conference, distinguished above his brethren, for the noble qualities which eminently fitted him for a leader in Israel, has left large and important contributions to the historical, literary, and religious information of the Church; and whereas, he has named Rev. W. H. Watkins, also, a member of this Conference, as his literary executor, be it

*Resolved,* That this Conference approves the selection of Bro. Watkins for that important work.

## DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The following Brethren were elected on the first ballot:

D. M. Wiggins, L. Pearce, J. G. Jones, B. M. Drake, C. K. Marshall, H. H. Montgomery, L. Campbell and John Lusk—H. J. Harris, Wm. H. Watkins and James Walton, reserve delegates.

C. K. Marshall, was elected Treasurer of the General Conference delegation.

## COURSE OF STUDY AND COMMITTEES OF EXAMINATION.

*First Year.*—Bible, as to Doctrines; Wesley's Sermons; Fletcher's Appeal; English Grammar; Composition.

*Second Year.*—Bible, as to Sacraments and Ordinances; Watson's Life of Wesley; Watson's Apology; Fletcher's Christian Perfection; Ancient Geography; Discipline; Composition.

*Third Year.*—Bible, as to History and Chronology; Ruter's Church History; Watson's Institutes—parts I and II; Rhetoric, Blair's University Edition; Composition, or Sermon.

*Fourth Year.*—Bible Generally; Watson's Institutes—parts III and IV; Powell on Succession; Old Christianity vs. Papal Novelties, by G. Ousley; Logic; Sermon.

Bishop Early, announced the following Committees of examination:

*First Year.*—John Lusk, James A. Light and John T. Dew.

*Second Year.*—W. H. Watkins, John A. B. Jones and J. L. Forsyth.

*Third Year.*—C. K. Marshall, L. Wiley, and D. M. Wiggins.

*Fourth Year.*—H. J. Harris, W. P. Barton, L. Ecanbrack.

Next Conference to be held in Woodville.

## APPOINTMENTS FOR MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.

**Natchez District.**—Lewell Campbell, P. E.; Natchez, James P. Linderman; Woodville, John J. Wheat; Washington Colored Mission, J. G. Hollins; Kingston, W. H. Watkins; Buffalo, Chas. A. McNeal; Homo Chitto Colored Mission, to be supplied; Wilkinson, Ephraim A. Flowers; Wilkinson Colored Mission, J. C. Sellers; Bayou Sara and Barrows Church, T. W. Brown; Percy Creek, G. D. Wade, J. D. Shaw; Clinton, H. T. Lewis; Jackson, J. A. B. Jones; East Feliciana, T. Price, W. H. Scales; East Feliciana Colored Mission, J. B. Higginbotham; J. C. Miller, President of Centenary College.

**Fayette District.**—J. G. Jones, P. E.; Fayette Circuit, George F. Thompson; South Jefferson Colored Mission, C. T. French; North Jefferson Colored Mission, J. D. Willis; Scotland Colored Mission, J. B. Bowen; Bayou Pierre, V. H. Johnson; Bayou Pierre Colored Mission, W. H. Mullins; Georgetown, R. T. Hennington; Pearl river, J. H. Laney; Brookhaven, A. B. Nicholson; Holmesville, A. Castle, W. Hoover; Amite, W. H. Germany; Meadville, H. M. Youngblood.

**Vicksburg District.**—B. M. Drake, P. E.; Vicksburg, W. P. Barton; Vicksburg Colored Mission, to be supplied; Warren and Colored Mission, P. E. Green, W. M. Curtis, sup.; Clinton, L. Wiley, J. W. McNeil; Austin Mission, H. Copeland; Raymond and Spring Ridge, H. M. Boothe; Jackson, J. L. Forsyth; Crystal Springs, H. J. Harris; Port Gibson and Grand Gulf and Colored Mission, B. Jones and Dan'l A. J. Parker; Rocky Springs and Colored Mission, Lorenzo Ercanbrack.

Richard Abbey, Tract Agent.

**Greenville District.**—W. B. Hines, P. E.; Greenville, W. Harrington and W. G. Millsaps; Greenville Colored Mission, G. C. Fore; Bolivar, J. H. Shelton; Upper Deer Creek, W. W. Graves; Middle Deer Creek, E. F. Mullins; Lower Deer Creek, W. Wadsworth; Talula, R. W. Lambuth, T. S. McGraw; Sunflower, S. T. Swiney.

**Yazoo District.**—Levi Pearce, P. E.; Yazoo City, C. K. Marshall; Yazoo Colored Mission, Albert Becton; Yazoo Circuit, D. M. Wiggins. T. M. Ward, sup.; Big Black Colored Mission, T. C. Parish; Valley Mission, to be supplied; Holmes, J. G. Carlisle; Richland and Lexington, G. H. Clinton; Ebenezer, F. M. Featherstun; Honey Island Colored Mission, W. R. Raney; Black Hawk, D. W. Dillahay, Middleton, W. P. Dickerson; Carrolton, H. Williamson; Carroll Colored Mission, to be supplied; Sidon Mission, J. English; Greenwood Mission, B. B. Whittington; North Warren,; J. D. Newsom; North Warren Colored Mission, J. W. Jones.

**Sharon District.**—John Lusk, P. E.; Sharon and Thornton Chapel, James, H. Merrill, J. W. Adams, sup.; Canton, James Walton; Madison Colored Mission, Andrew Day; Vernon and Livingston, H. H. Montgomery; Vernon Colored Mission, J. P. Briggs; Robinson's Plantation, J. S. Harris; Carthage, B. Avant, J. H. Massey, sup.; Attala, W. Ford. T. C. Rayner; Double Springs, T. W. Castle; Bankston, A. R. Hines; Greensborough, J. J. Early; Starkville and Pearce Chapel, to be supplied; Oktibbeha Circuit, J. W. McCrary; Oktibbeha Colored Mission, T. W. Hines; Camden, J. Mathews, J. M. Pugh; McWilley's Colored Mission, P. Howard; Thos. C. Thornton, President of Madison College; J. M. Pugh, Professor of Mathemetics.

**Paulding District.**—R. J. Jones, P. E.; Paulding, W. Price, G. Jackson; Westville, K. A. Jones; Raleigh, J. Y. Griffin; Union, R. A. Sibley; Brandon, J. A. Godfrey, J. A. Vance; Hillsborough, F. W. Sharborough; Concord, J. A. Light; Decatur, J. J. Clark, Philadelphia, D. McDonald; Louisville, J. G. Deskins; Webster, J. M. Jones.

**Covington District.**---B. Pipkin, P. E.; Covington, John T. Dew; Franlinton; D. M. Wadsworth; Gainesville, H. D. Berry; Columbia, J. Boyes; Sea Shore, J. Nicholson; Leaf River, Mission, A. J. Smith; Black Creek, Mission, H. P. Lewis; Livingston, E. R. Strickland; Greensburg, C. R. Godfrey; St. Helena, C. P. Swinney; East Baton Rouge, W. S. Townsend; A. G. Miller transferred to Louisiana Conference.